stability, rapid and sustainable economic growth.

Powers of Reserve Bank of India regarding disciplining N.B.F.C's and RNBCs

643. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in the Times of India dated 21.3.98 wherein the RBI has taken a stand that it is in no position to direct the NBFCs and RNBCs to honour their obligation to the investors and depositors and that the depositors should seek redress elsewhere;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether the stance of RBI is in conformity with the amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 carried out in 1997 which conferred substantial powers on the Reserve Bank of India to discipline to NBFCs and RNBCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under reference.

(b) and (c) While the RBI Act as amended in 1997 gives a wide range of powers to the RBI which were not available to RBI prior to the amendment, powers under Section 450A(2) of the Act are vested in the Company Law Board. Section 450A(2) of RBI Act provides that where an NBFC has failed to repay any deposit or part thereof in accordance with the terms and conditions of such deposits, the Company Law Board may direct, by order, the NBFC to make repayment of such deposits or part thereof forthwith or within such time and subject to such conditions as may be specified in the order.

As and when complaints of delayed or non-payment of deposits or interest thereon are received from the depositors, they are advised to file their complaints with the Company Law Board, which is empowered under the Act to deal with such complaints.

Report of Narasimham Committee on Financial Sector Reforms

644. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Narasimham Committee on financial sector reforms has already submitted its second report to Government;

(b) if so, the main highlights of its recommendations;

(c) whether the copy of the report would be laid on the Table of the House; and

(d) whether Government would permit a discussion of the report in the next session of Parliament before its major recommendations are put into effect and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) The Committee on Banking Sector Reforms chaired by Shri M. Narasimham has recently submitted its Report to Government.

(b) The Committee's recommendations cover institutional, supervisory, legislative and banking policy aspects. The recommendations relate to capital adequacy, asset quality, non-performing assets, directed credit, prudential norms, disclosure requirements, systems and methods in banks, structural issues, rural & small industrial credit, regulation & supervision, legal and legislative framework.

(c) and (d) Copies of the Report have already been placed in the Parliament Library. These recommendaitons constitute an input into the on-going exercise by Government and the Reserve Bank of India for reform of the banking

sector and as such a separate discussion on this account might not be necessary. A number of question notices have been received leading to the possibility of the Committee's Report, or some aspects thereof, being discussed in Parliament. Some recommendations, in the event of their acceptance, will necessitate legislative changes envisaging discussions in Parliament in the process.

वाणिज्यिक बैंकों की नई शाखायें

645. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1996-97, 1997-98 के दौरान वाणिज्यिक बैंकों की कितनी नई शाखायें खोलने की अनुमति दी गई है;

(ख) क्या इस वर्ष के दौरान विदेशी बैंकों से नई शाखायें खोलने के लिए आवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या बैंकों की इस सूची में ऐसा कोई बैंक भी शामिल है, जिसका वर्ष 1991-92 के वित्तीय घोटाले की जांच कर रही संयुक्त संसदीय समिति ने उल्लेख किया है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० जनार्दनम): (क) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा देश में शाखाएं खोलने के लिए भारतीय वाणिज्यिक बैंकों और विदेशी बैंकों को जारी किए गए प्राधिकार पत्र की संख्या निम्नानुसार है:—

वर्ष	प्राधिकार पत्र की संख्या
1996-97	1041
1997-98	1028

(ख) और (ग) जी, हां।

सिलाई मशीन पर आयात शुल्क

646. **श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वहाडणे:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने 27.9.97 को अखबारों में "भारत में सिलाई मशीनों पर आयात शुल्क की दरें तर्कसंगत नहीं" शीर्षक से छपी खबर के बारे में कोई पूछताछ की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० जनार्दनम): (क) सरकार को "भारत में सिलाई मशीनों पर आयात शुल्क की दरें तर्कसंगत नहीं" शीर्षक से छपे समाचार की जानकारी है। किन्तु सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई जांच नहीं की है।

(ख) और (ग) ऊपर (क) को देखते हुए, ये प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Reforms Proposed for Insurance Companies

647. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce a paragon on autonomy of the insurance compaines;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith other reforms proposed for the insurance compaines;

(c) the salient feature of the recently announced citizen's charter;

(d) whether Government propose to announce the citizen's charter for the banking companies also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No specific package giving greater autonomy to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and its subsidiaries is presently under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Copies of the Citizen's Charters adopted by the LIC, GIC and its subsidiaries are at Annexure [*See Appendix* 184, *Annexure No.* 21]

(d) and (e) Public Sector Banks have adopted "Citizens' Charter". The Charter indicates various services/facilities